



STATE OF MINNESOTA

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ARNE H. CARLSON
GOVERNOR

January 10, 1992

The Honorable Jerome M. Hughes
President of the Senate
State of Minnesota
328 Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Hughes:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 357, Senate File 1597/House File 1728, a bill changing the boundaries of Minnesota congressional districts. The bill fails to meet essential standards of fairness, and I question its constitutionality.

First, it is obvious that prior voter behavior has driven the drawing of these district lines. The plan is designed to protect certain incumbents and produce a preordained ratio of majority and minority members in the state's congressional delegation.

Second, congressional districts must be contiguous and compact. Contiguous these districts may be; but compact they are not. For example District six wraps from Hastings to Buffalo. District eight commences on the Canadian border and enters the city of Anoka. This may produce political advantage for the drafters, but it thwarts the concept of community of interest.

Chapter 357 shows little regard for the integrity of existing political subdivision boundaries. For example, Bloomington is again cut apart and Inver Grove Heights is again divided. The city of Delano is cut in two. Division of political subdivisions is not minimized to the extent practicable.

Finally, Chapter 357 fails to maximize minority voter representation. Districts four and five utilize congressional lines that divide areas with sizable concentrations of minority populations. These lines diminish the voting strength of these minority populations.

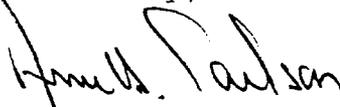
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Chapter 357 does not comply with constitutional criteria for redistricting. Equally important, it lacks fundamental fairness. Last year I had written to the Legislative leadership and proposed that the redistricting legislation be prepared by either of two methods:

- Negotiation between Republican and Democrat legislative leaders, to produce a bi-partisan plan, or failing that,
- Referring the matter to a Commission with membership equally divided between Republican and Democrat appointees. Sitting legislators would not be eligible for the Commission, and both parties would agree to abide by its results.

I have never received a response to that request, and the bill pushed through Committee this week reflects no effort at developing a fair, negotiated or bi-partisan solution. For these reasons, I must veto Chapter 357.

Sincerely,



ARNE H. CARLSON
Governor

me

c Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Duane Benson, Minority Leader
Senator Larry Pogemiller, Senate Chief Author
Representative Dee Long, Speaker of the House
Representative Terry Dempsey, Minority Leader
Representative Peter Rodosovich, House Chief Author
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of the State